



Texas Animal Health Commission

"Serving Texas Animal Agriculture Since 1893"

Who We Are

About the Texas Animal Health Commission

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is one of the oldest state agencies, established in 1893 by the legislature with a mission to combat the fever tick that plagued the Texas cattle industry.

Today, the agency protects the health and enhances the marketability of all Texas livestock, exotic livestock and poultry, including:

- cattle
- swine
- poultry
- sheep & goats
- equine
- exotic fowl
- exotic livestock (exotic bovidae, cervidae and camelids)

The TAHC has legislative authority to regulate the prevention, control and/or eradication of specific contagious or infectious diseases in livestock and poultry. The TAHC staff also work to keep foreign and emerging animal diseases from becoming a major livestock and poultry health hazard.

The TAHC regulations are approved by 13 governor-appointed commissioners who serve six-year staggered terms. The commissioners meet as needed to study the regulatory needs of the agency, review public comments on proposed regulation changes and adopt new rules.

The day-to-day operations are run by the Executive Director who is also the State Veterinarian. The TAHC headquarters are in Austin, Texas and there are seven regional offices strategically located across the state. The TAHC staff work closely with veterinarians, ranchers, livestock markets, slaughter plants and other livestock industry representatives.

Because many of the state's livestock and poultry health programs coincide with those required by the federal government, the TAHC staff often work closely with U.S. Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Veterinary Services personnel (USDA-APHIS-VS).

Veterinarians and Epidemiologists

Each of the seven TAHC regional offices have a veterinarian that serves as the region director. They perform veterinary and administrative management duties.

TAHC epidemiologists are veterinarians who focus on disease transmission and eradication. They work to find the source of infectious diseases in animals, locate animals that may have been exposed to disease and determine the best course of action to reduce or eliminate the disease from the population.

Animal Health Inspectors

Livestock inspectors are the "hands-on" members of the TAHC. They work at livestock markets, feedlots, and slaughter plants, and test for diseases on local ranches. Their duties include collecting diagnostic samples from livestock and poultry, inspecting regulated facilities, monitoring movement restricted diseased or exposed animals, performing road stops to ensure state entry requirements and agency regulations, in general, are followed. Inspectors also play a critical role in responding to natural disaster events and disease outbreaks affecting livestock or poultry.

Emergency Management Personnel

The emergency management staff is responsible for planning response to disease outbreaks in livestock and poultry, and natural disasters like hurricanes and wildfires that impact animals. The TAHC is designated as the states lead agency for all animal issues in emergency, whether natural or man-made disasters, acts of agro-terrorism, or naturally occurring animal disease outbreaks. TAHC emergency response activities include working with local, state and federal officials, as well as the public. Emergency management personnel address' evacuation and sheltering needs for Texas animals, directs field personnel in assisting affected veterinary practitioners in natural disasters, perform damage assessments and provide expertise and advice related to carcass disposal.

Legal and Compliance

Legal Services is responsible for providing legal services and counsel to TAHC's commissioners, executive staff, departments, programs and regions. This department is responsible for enforcement of TAHC's regulatory functions, including investigations, prosecutions and settlements, and is the liaison with the Texas Attorney General. Legal Services also manages all public information requests received by the Commission.

Laboratory Personnel

Laboratory technicians and microbiologists support several animal health programs by performing a variety of specialized tests on blood, milk and tissue samples. Laboratory staff also identify pests, including ticks. TAHC participates in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).

Administrative and Support Personnel

Administrative and support personnel perform management and clerical-related work to run effective and efficient day-to-day TAHC operations.

Departments under this umbrella include:

Human Resources	Communications
Finance	Information Technology
Purchasing	Program Records/Permits
Staff Services	

* The following page is the map with Region contact information

TAHC Regional Offices

Region 1 - Amarillo
3822 Business Park Drive
Amarillo, TX 79110
806-354-9335

Region 2 - Hempstead
1739 13th Street, Ste. 28
Hempstead, TX 77445
979-921-9481

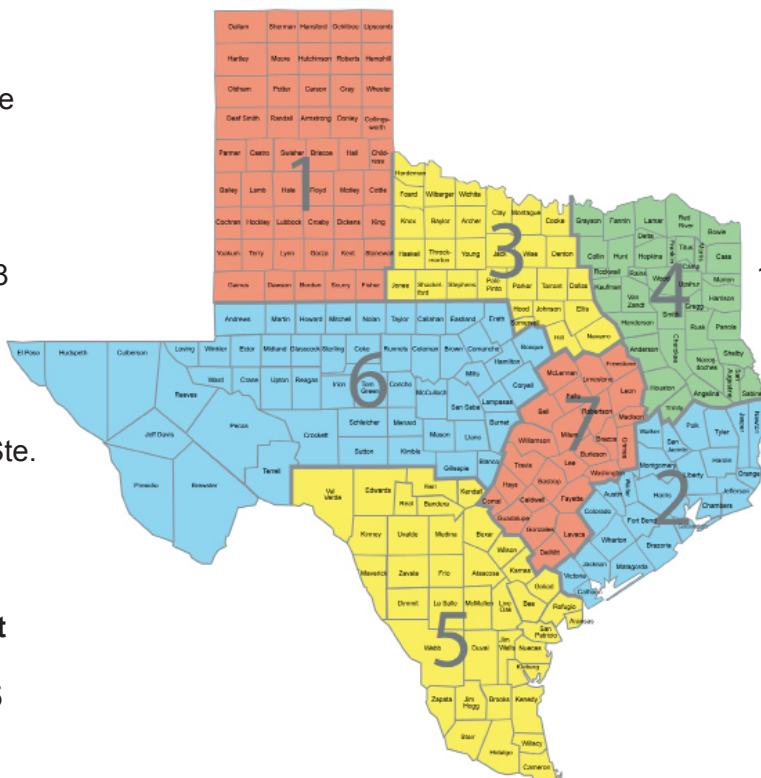
Region 3 - Fort Worth
8751 Camp Bowie West, Ste.
104
Fort Worth, TX 76116
817-244-2597

Region 4 - Mt. Pleasant
313 W. Alabama, Ste. 1
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75455
903-572-1966

Region 5 - Beeville
3811 N. St. Mary's
Beeville, TX 78102
361-358-3234

Region 6 - Lampasas
1305 Key Avenue, Ste. 207
Lampasas, TX 76550
512-556-6277

Region 7 - Rockdale
130 East Bell St.
Rockdale, TX 76567
512-446-2507



Texas Animal Health Commission - Headquarters
P.O. Box 12966
Austin, TX 78711-2966
512-719-0700 • 1-800-550-8242

Website: www.tahc.texas.gov

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TexasAHC

Twitter: www.twitter.com/TAHC

